



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER – with Corrected Dates

The NZIFSA Board, Development Group and Operations Group hope you have enjoyed a Merry Christmas with family and friends and would like to wish all our members of the NZ Skating Community a Happy New Year!

Looking back, what an amazing year 2023 has been. In addition to all the skater, coach, and officials' development activities there were a whole lot of firsts in 2023. We started the year with Jojo Hong, Doug Gerber, and Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam competing at Four Continents, and then, for the first time ever, we had an Ice Dance couple, Charlotte & Ricky, represent New Zealand at an ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Sadly, for various reasons, none of these skaters are representing New Zealand this season, however, their achievements serve as wonderful inspiration.

Dwayne Li competing at the 2023 Junior World Championships and then making history by medalling at the Bangkok Junior Grand Prix was another high point. This amazing achievement was then topped off by Dwayne qualifying to represent New Zealand at the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games. We are all so very proud of what you have achieved and the phenomenal commitment and dedication you have shown Dwayne.

The Oceania International Figure Skating Competition being held in Auckland was a significant achievement for NZIFSA after COVID disrupted plans to hold it in 2020. We have also enjoyed seeing a number of skaters and teams compete at a variety of other International and Interclub events as well as a very busy local competition season.

We are looking forward to 2024 which is already shaping up to be something quite special.

WORLD ICE SKATING DAY – 3 DECEMBER 2023

New Zealand ended up with three events registered as part of the ISU World Ice Skating Day. Wellington Ice Skating Club provided free beginner lessons and the opportunity for people to try skating. Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club held a Family Session Christmas Party for members and friends, and Allegro Ice dance Club linked their fun Artistic Competition to WISD. In addition to this there were a couple of events that were not registered, but where something special was done to celebrate World Ice Skating Day for example Alpine Ice in Christchurch offered 2 for 1 entry to their two public sessions that day.

A huge thank you to all those who were involved in organising these events.

World Ice Skating Day is to be an annual event on the first Sunday in December. Please mark Sunday 1 December 2024 in your calendars.

DWAYNE LI AND THE WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES 19 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2024

Earlier this month Yanhao (Dwayne) Li made history, yet again, by becoming the first ever New Zealand ice figure skater to be selected for the Winter Youth Olympic Games. Dwayne has been named to the New Zealand Team for the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Dwayne is currently training in China with coach, Bess Cao, in preparation for the Youth Olympic Games, in Gangwon, Korea. We are sure you will join us in wishing Dwayne all the best for his training. Dwayne will be competing on the 27 & 29 January. We will include details of where you can watch the Youth Olympic Games in the January newsletter.



Photo by On Ice Images

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

17th Europa Cup of Helena, Belgrade, Serbia, 4-6 January 2024

Junior Women Renee Tsai

2024 World Masters Games Lombardy, Italy, 12-21st January 2024

Bronze II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Viktoria Marinova
Bronze II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Susan Wallace
Silver II Women Freeskate	Rachel Sidha
Bronze IV Women Artistic	Sally Garelja
Silver II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Olga Levien
Silver III Women Freeskate, Gold III Artistic	Glenda Bronkhorst
Gold III Women Freeskate & Artistic	Sheryl Squire

2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Gangwon, Korea, 27-30 January 2024

Junior Men Dwayne Li

2024 World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Taipei, Taiwan 26 Feb – 3 March 2024

Junior Men Dwayne Li

2024 World Junior Synch Figure Skating Champs, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 15-16 March 2024

Junior Synchro Titanium

ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 12-17 May 2024

Bronze I Women Freeskate & Artistic	Juliet Sivertsen
Silver II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Kirsty Cox
Gold IV Women Freeskate & Artistic	Tammy Cowan

UPCOMING INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2024 Trophy De Ecosse, Dumfries, Scotland, 26-27 January 2024

Mixed Age Synchro Black Ice

Hevelius Cup, Gdansk, Poland, 2-4 February 2024

Mixed Age Synchro Black Ice

ANZAS 2024 Adult Figure Skating Competition, Melbourne, Australia, 10-11 February 2024

Bronze III Men Freeskate & Artistic Alastair Christie

OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND COACHING SEMINAR, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA 29 MAY – 2 JUNE 2024

Ice Skating Australia and NZIFSA are again co-hosting the Oceania International Competition and Coach Development Seminar. The competition is for Singles, Pairs and Ice Dance for Basic Novice to Senior level skaters and is to run 29-31 May. All skaters selected to the International A & B Teams will be eligible to attend and are encouraged to do so. The competition will be followed by a coach development seminar on 1 & 2 June. We will have more details about the competition and the coaching seminar in the New Year and will be calling for a registration of interest from skaters in February.

CLUCAS CUP SELECTION COMPETITION, DUNEDIN 15 & 16 JUNE 2024

As per the NZIFSA Selection Policy, this competition is to determine selection and priority order for international competitions with a closing date between 7 July 2024 and one week after our National Championships. The competition will be open to skaters in Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchronized skating, who competed at the 2023 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2024.

Age eligibility for entry into Clucas Cup Competition

Discipline	Grade	Age as at 1 st July 2024
Singles	Basic Novice	Under 13
	Intermediate Novice	Under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 15
	Junior	Is at least 13 but is under 19
	Senior	Is at least 17
Dance	Basic Novice	Under 13
	Intermediate Novice	Under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10, but Ladies under 15, Men under 17

	Junior	Is at least 13, but Ladies under 19, Men under 21
	Senior	Is at least 17
Pairs	Basic Novice	Under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10, but Ladies under 15, Men under 17
	Junior	Is at least 13, but Ladies under 19, Men under 21
	Senior	Is at least 17
Synchronised Skating*	Mixed Age Novice	No age restrictions
	Basic Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 15
	Junior	Is at least 13 but is under 19
	Senior and Senior Elite 12	Is at least 17

* Please refer to the Selection Policy for team composition requirements.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2024

In the January newsletter we will have details of the development activities for the year. Below is a brief outline of what is being planned. We will have additional information and registration forms early in the new year.

Skater Development

We have a number of workshops planned for 2024 with exciting moderators lined up for you.

Adults, Christchurch 24 & 25 February

The intention is to bring over Greg Merriman, from Sydney, to work with our adult skaters.

Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 29 March – 1 April

We are very pleased to advise that Keegan Murphy has confirmed his availability for this workshop.

Synchronized Skating, Dunedin 16 & 17 April and Auckland (Botany), 19-21 April

The great news is that Heather Paige has confirmed her availability for these two workshops. These workshops are aimed at our Basic Novice to Senior Level teams. These workshops are not being offered to our KiwiSkate or Adult teams. A separate development session will be offered to KiwiSkate teams. Details of this will be provided in the near future.

Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Auckland (Botany) and Dunedin 1 & 2 June.

We will be calling for moderators for these two Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile workshops in January. Note, the dates for these workshops may need to change given that they are the same dates that the Oceania Coach Seminar is scheduled for.

Coaching Courses

Two KiwiSkate and a Level 1 Coaching Course are planned for 2024.

- KiwiSkate course – Auckland (Avondale & Botany) 17 & 18 February
- Level 1 Coaching Course – Auckland (Avondale & Botany) 17 & 18 February (to run alongside the KiwiSkate course)
- KiwiSkate course – southern region (location TBC) 4 & 5 May

The ISU are still developing the materials for their Level 2, 3 and 4 courses and we expect it to be later in 2024 before we will be able to deliver a Level 2 course.

Officials Training

- Synchronized Skating - Judge & Technical Seminar plus DO/RO – Christchurch 18 & 19 May
- Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines) – online session Saturday 25 May
- New Probationary and Tier 1 Officials (Singles) - online session Saturday 8 June a.m.

In addition to the above there will online sessions to cover season updates.

PILOT YOUTH INTERPRETIVE WORKSHOPS – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NZIFSA are planning something a little different this year and aiming to run two pilot workshops to provide development opportunities for Youth Interpretive skaters. We are looking at whether providing support for a regular group session provides a better model for growing Youth Interpretive grades than was provided by the two day camp. We are seeking expressions of interest from coaches and clubs that are keen to be involved in one of the pilot programmes.

The workshops will be aimed at 12 – 17 year olds who are not currently competing in mainstream singles grades. The focus is on providing opportunities for skaters to continue to develop their skating skills and presentation in a group setting with a view to preparing them to do an interpretive programme. The plan is to run an hour session once a week over an 8-10 week period.

We are seeking expressions of interest from coaches interested in being a moderator for these workshops. However, to really make this work we anticipate that the support of a local club or regional sub-association will be key. Interested coaches, please talk to your local clubs to gauge their interest in supporting this. If you have a group of coaches interested in working together to cover the different elements of the proposed workshops, we are interested in exploring how this might work.

We anticipate that Level 3 coaches are more likely to have the skill set and level of experience we are seeking, however Level 2 coaches will certainly be considered. Interested coaches are asked to complete the online form outlining their skill set and experience and motivation for applying by **Monday 29 January 2024**.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIInterpretiveWorkshops2024>

NZIFSA AGM – AUCKLAND, SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held in Auckland on Saturday 23 March and will be preceded by member forums. We encourage all clubs to ensure they have representation at the AGM.

The following is an indicative schedule so that clubs can look to book travel – Member forums 10am – 12noon, then AGM 12noon – 1:30pm, followed by lunch and then Board and Ops & Dev Group meetings 2-6pm. We are in the process of confirming the venue for the AGM, aiming for a location within a 20 min drive of the airport for those coming from outside Auckland and needing to factor that into what flights they book. We will confirm the venue and provide information about arranging airport pick-ups soon.

PRINTED RULES & REGS

The Board are currently finalising the 2024 NZIFSA Rules & Regulations and these will be available on the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/> soon.

With people increasingly able to access the NZIFSA Rules & Regulations and the ISU Regulations and Technical Rules wherever they are, NZIFSA have moved away from printing copies of documentation for everyone. However, if any clubs, coaches, officials, or members of the Board or Operations / Development Groups require a printed copy of any of the documentation listed below, please complete the online form by **7pm Thursday 11 January**.

A reminder that the following documents, updated after the 2022 ISU Congress, are available on the ISU website <https://isu.org/inside-isu/rules-regulations/isu-statutes-constitution-regulations-technical>

- ISU Constitution & General Regulations 2022
- ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2022
- ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Synchronized Skating 2022

If you require copies of any or all of these, please complete the online form.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/RulesAndRegulationsRequests2024>

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 16 January. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Tuesday 10 January. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the January meeting.

All the best in skating,
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA